



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
150 South Huntington Avenue
Boston MA 02130

OCT 28 1992

In Reply Refer To: 523/11D

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Gentlemen:

Following is our response to your letter of October 9, 1992, relative to the above referenced routine inspection of our program.

The individual designated by the radiation safety officer to serve as his alternate throughout the research areas was coincidentally a member of the staff of Dr. Sander Robins' laboratory. The intent was to provide the necessary coverage throughout the program, including the necessary additional review during the periods of increased activity in this laboratory. While we contend that the extra review was performed, we concede that the independence aspect was overlooked. We view this as a different compliance issue than that cited previously when the increased frequency reviews were not performed. We agree to alter our procedures to assure that the necessary increased surveillance is always performed by an individual who is independent of the subject laboratory.

With respect to the second issue relating to the animal quarters housing several animals containing small quantities of ^{14}C , we agree that the total inventory in the animal's warranted posting of the laboratory. This was not evident until a careful accounting was prepared showing the excretion through several pathways over time. The earlier presumption on the part of the investigator had led to the estimate that the total remaining was below 1 mCi. In the future, the animal room will be automatically posted and remain posted until such a careful accounting is prepared and approved by RSO, clearly showing that posting is no longer required.

With these adjustments, we believe our program to now be in full compliance of all regulations.

Sincerely,

SMITH JENKINS, JR.
Medical Center Director

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OCT 30 1992